

I am writing to ask that you help keep US Internet access open and competitive. I am a Qwest DSL customer in Seattle Washington, I use Qwest's DSL to connect to an independant ISP that offers a different package of services. I have often considered using Qwest's own Internet accesss offering, but continue to use the 3rd party ISP because of the particular mix of features and quality of service they offer, even though their price is somewhat higher. I've also considered the options offered by other independent ISPs in the area.

All these choices are important to me as a consumer, and to the business customers and employers I've acquired internet access for. It is important to maintain, if not expand these choices.

I'm concerned that reducing these choices will result in higher rates and lower quality of service from the baby bells and cable access providers. I'm also concerned about the loss of network transparency as non-competitive access providers try and force users into using proprietary offerings for things like video and audio communications by various means, including blocking or otherwise hindering 3rd party applications and services like Skype or Vonage. Such attempts to control the network also have the potential to crush innovation by blocking nascent applications created by upstart companies and creative individuals.

Please maintain open access.